

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2017

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 207 (First Edition)
SHORT TITLE: Motorcycle License/Exempt Antique Scooters.
SPONSOR(S): Representatives Speciale and Ford

FISCAL IMPACT					
(\$ in millions)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Estimate Available					
State Impact	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
General Fund Revenues:					
General Fund Expenditures:					
Highway Fund Revenues:					
Highway Fund Expenditures:					
State Positions:					
NET STATE IMPACT	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:
 Division of Motor Vehicles & North Carolina Community College System

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when bill becomes law.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:
 Yes - See Technical Considerations Section

BILL SUMMARY:

Section 1 amends G.S.20-7(a1) to provide that neither a motorcycle learner's permit nor a motorcycle endorsement is required to drive a motor scooter that is both:

1. Manufactured prior to January 1, 1960
2. Has a motor that does not exceed 150 cubic centimeters piston displacement and produces more than eight horsepower

Section 2 states that the bill is effective when it becomes law.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

G.S.20-4.01(27)d. defines the term “motorcycle” to include a motor scooter. G.S.20-4.01(27)d1. excludes vehicles with engines of 50 cubic centimeter or lower piston displacement from the definition of motorcycle.

G.S. 20-7(a1) currently requires a person driving a vehicle classified as a motorcycle to obtain through either a full provisional or regular drivers license a motorcycle learner’s permit or motorcycle endorsement.

A query of the State Automated Driver License System (SADLS) revealed 159,684 total motorcycle endorsements and 14,418 total motorcycle permits for FY2015-16. The cost for a motorcycle endorsement is \$2.30/yr and a motorcycle permit is \$20/yr.

A query cannot be performed of the State Titling and Registration System (STARS) for motorcycles that meet the cubic centimeter piston displacement required by this bill, as STARS does not record cubic centimeter displacement for registered vehicles. Additionally, the Division of Motor Vehicles at the time of this request was unable to complete a STARS query for the total number of registered motorcycles manufactured prior to 1960.

Given that the date of manufacture of these types of vehicles is more than fifty years ago, it is likely this bill represents a small subset of currently classified motorcycles. Based on the narrow confines of the motor scooter definition provided in this bill, the bill will likely have minimal impact on the current number of motorcycle endorsements and permits. The fiscal impact is likely to be minimal.

This bill will no longer require drivers under 18 who drive this type of motor scooter, to complete the North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program Basic Rider Course, Experienced Rider Course, or other course approved by the Commissioner to meet the Motorcycle Safety Instruction Program established under G.S. 115D-72. The removal of this requirement will likely create a small, but indeterminate fiscal loss to the North Carolina Community College System, which operates the North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program Basic Rider Course and Experienced Rider Course.

SOURCES OF DATA: Division of Motor Vehicles

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: The State Titling and Registration System (STARS) does not record the cubic centimeter piston displacement for registered vehicles. This limitation will make it difficult for law enforcement to determine whether or not the driver is required to have a motorcycle endorsement or permit.

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Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices